Poaching of Leopards in Rajaji National Park

†*514. Ms. SUSHILA TIRIYA: SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal poaching of leopards is being done in the country—particularly in the Rajaji National Park causing constant decrease in their number,

(b) if so, whether Government have taken concrete steps to check the illegal poaching of leopard and other wild animals;

(c) the names of categories and the number of forest officials penalized for illegal poaching in the National park in spite imposing complete ban on the poaching of wild animals; and

(d) the number of skins of leopards recovered from the Rajaji Na-tional Parks, during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No report regarding constant decrease in number of leopards in the country, including Rajaji National Park, due to poaching has been received. Details of population of leopards in the country and Rajaji National Park land scape are placed at statement I and II respectively. (See below)

Government of Uttaranchal has reported measures are being taken in Rajaji National Park to deal with the threat of poaching which include anti poaching camps at strategic places, deployment of ex army personnel in wildlife protection, foot patrolling and night, patrol ling in sensitive areas and strengthening of communication systems. Similar measures, more or less, have been adopted in all protected areas of the country to combat poaching of wild animals

(c) No report of forest officials being found responsible for poach ing in Rajaji National Park has been received

(d) Nil.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement I

State-wise Details of Population of Leopards

SI.No.	Name of the State	Leopard	
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	138	505
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	98	NR
3.	Assam	246	248
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	203	164
5.	Goa/Daman & Diu	25	41
6.	Gujarat	832	999
7.	Haryana	25	NR
8.	Himachal Pradesh	821	NR
9.	J&K	NR	7
10.	Karnataka	620	NR
11.	Kerala	16	NR
12.	M.P./Chattisgarh	1851	2206
13.	Maharashtra	431	513
14.	Manipur	NR	NR
15.	Meghalaya	NR	NR
16.	Mizoram	28	NR
17.	Nagaland	NR	42
18.	Orissa	422	457
19.	Rajasthan	474	481
20.	Sikkim	NR	NR
21	Tamil Nadu	110	41
22.	Tripura	18	NR
23.	UP/Uttaranchal	1412	2168
24.	West Bengal	108	331
25.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	15	NR
26.	Andman & Nicobar	"	NR
	TOTAL	7893	8203

***Statement** II*

*Population of Leopards in Rajaji National Park Landscape**

SI.No.	Name of the Forest area	Number of Leopards		
		2001	2003	2005
1.	Rajaji National Park	236	208	214
2	Haridwar Forest Division	58	58	75
3.	Lansdown Forest Division	47	45	63
4.	Dehradun Forest Division	23	33	61
Total of the Landscape		364	344	413

* Rajaji National Park Landscape also includes the Lansdown, Haridwar and Dehradun Forest Divisions, as these forest divisions are adjacent to the Park and Wild Animals move freely irrespective of the administrative boundaries.

Rural backyard Poultry Development

*515. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a new scheme *viz* Rural Backyard Poultry Development;

(b) if so, the salient features of the schemes;

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to strengthen the contribution of the organized sector by promoting backyard poultry particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.